GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2072
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016
Killing of Witnesses
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints with regard to death of witnesses related with the cases involving notorious prisoners under mysterious circumstances in various jails;

(b) if so, the total number of such cases reported, guilty arrested and the action taken against them during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide security to witnesses and the details of witness protection programme in the country; and

(d) the other measures taken by the Government to stop such cases in future along with the advisories issued to States and police departments in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a) to (b): Details of death of witnesses are not maintained centrally.

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(c) to (d): The 198th Report of the Law Commission of India on 'Witness Identity Protection and Witness Protection Programme' has been circulated to the State Governments / Union Territory Administrations for consultation. There are provisions in Section 195A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 195A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to provide legal recourse to the witnesses. Further, Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting criminals. The Union Government, however, attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention of crime and therefore, has continued to urge the State Governments/ UT Administrations to give more focused attention towards improving the administration of criminal justice system and taking such measures as are necessary for prevention and control of crime within their respective jurisdictions.

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